R.D. Kewe,

Grand Forks.

PAT BURNS AND THE P.BURNS'COMPANY

Prior to 1890 we knew aboutP. Burns as a cattle dealer with headquarters at Calgary.

Joe Wilson and Billy Perdu had a pack train in the opened a butcher shop in Nelson. This may have been in 1890. Shortly after that Joe Wilson was drowned in bringing a scow load of cattle into Nelson. His brother, Blake Wilson, came from Ontario to take his place.

The country had started to boom. Railways were building. P. Burns and Company bought the business from Wilson and Perdu retaining Blake Wilson as manager.

In 1892 I took a small drive of cattle from Grand Fords Valley into Boundary Creek to supply the prospectors who were opening up the mines around Greenwood, Phoenix and Rock Creek. Midway, Greenwood, Grand Forks, Phoenix and Cascade became centers where Kerr and Flood opened butcher shops west of Cascade. We took a contract to supply the railway contractors. Shortly after that P.Burns and Co. bought us out. Blake Wilson was the manager taking charge of everything.

Some 500 acres of grass land was bought on Boundary Creek to hold the cattle driven in from the Okanagan. Pat Burns was very seldom in this part of the country. Blake Wilson managed the business.

Outside of a few small drives of cattle taken to Nelson and Rossland, no beef animals were taken out of the

Kettle river prior to the boom days here.

It is possible large drives were taken out of the Okanagan to the Yukon via the Hope Trail, thence by steamer.

A small drive of cattle might be from 20 to 30 head. A big drive from 100 to 150 gathered from the range with a pack horse that carried a bell. This horse carried the camp outfit and was led by one of the riders. The cattle would string out after the pack horse, a rider would follow after each 20 or 25 head. The boss would be in the rear. 15 miles a day would be made; camps made where the grass was good. The drivers in relays herded through the night. Losses on this way of moving cattle through the trails of B.C. were really none.

Steers and cows were often sold by the head, $35 and $25, sometimes by weight; if by weight the buyer and seller. The cattle would be run to a center, that is, the buyer would pick out the biggest, the seller took the smallest, driving these out from the herd until they came to the last animal. This would be killed and weighed in the morning.

A steer weighing 1200 pds. should when dressed by about 600 pds. co ies about 550.

Bets were often made re these weights and often were under 10 pds. There were no big scales in the land in those days.

Prior to 1895 there were few major roads and few bridges and we kept to the trails and when the streams

were at high water we would swim the stock. It was easier to swim them than get the wild cattle to cross the bridges.